

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1275

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4020

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, APER, US, UR

SUBJ: MOSCOW SIGNAL: EMPLOYEE REACTIONS

REF: STATE 63121

1. REFTEL MUCH APPRECIATED; THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IT CONTAINS WAS VERY HELPFUL IN MEETING WITH EMPLOYEES YESTERDAY.

2. DCM MET WITH EMPLOYEES AND ADULT DEPENDENTS FOR NEARLY THREE HOURS THIS AFTERNOON. ABOUT 45 ATTENDED MEETING, ROUGHLY 40 EMPLOYEES AND 5 DEPENDENTS. IT SEEMED TO BE CONSENSUS OF MEETING THAT NO RPT NO TELEGRAM WOULD BE SENT TO AFSA AT THIS TIME, BUT THAT FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS WOULD BE POSED TO MANAGEMENT THROUGH THIS CHANNEL:

A. CAN ASSURANCES BE GIVEN THAT EMPLOYEES IMMEDIATELY AFFECTED WILL BE BRIEFED WITHOUT DELAY ON SITUATION IF SIMILAR SIGNALS SHOULD BE DETECTED IN THE FUTURE AT ANOTHER EMBASSY?

B. WHERE SHOULD EMPLOYEES WHO PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN MOSCOW GO IN DEPARTMENT TO GAIN ACCESS TO FACT SHEET? (SOME EMBASSY EMPLOYEES HAVE RECEIVED LETTERS FROM FRIENDS WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED HERE STATING THAT THEY HAVE NOT YET BEEN BRIEFED AND EXPRESSING IGNORANCE OVER HOW THEY SHOULD OBTAIN A BRIEFING.)

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C. CAN DEPARTMENT INDICATE WHAT SORT OF ONGOING RESEARCH IS BEING CONDUCTED TO CLARIFY REMAINING POINTS OF DOUBT AS TO POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON HEALTH OF EXPOSURE TO LOW-LEVEL MICROWAVE SIGNALS. SOME MEMBERS ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN WHETHER RESEARCH IS BEING CONDUCTED TO CAST LIGHT ON POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL, AS OPPOSED OF PHYSIOLOGICAL, NATURE. (IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT SOME SOVIET STUDIES MAY HAVE INDICATED THAT SUCH EFFECTS ARE POSSIBLE.) IN MORE GENERAL TERMS, IS DEPARTMENT CONDUCTING -- OR DOES IT KNOW OF -- ANY RESEARCH ON THE GENERAL QUESTION ASIDE FROM THE MEDICAL TESTS BEING CONDUCTED HERE AND THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY MENTIONED IN THE FACT SHEET?

D. WHAT IS STATUS OF ACTION ON ALLOWNACES? (THERE IS ALMOST UNIVERSAL CONVICTION THAT EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN OPERATING UNDER UNUSUAL DEGREE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS SINCE THE INITIAL BRIEFING.) IF AN INCREASED DIFFERENTIAL ALLOWANCE, OR OTHER ALLOWNACES, ARE APPROVED, WOULD THEY BE RETROACTIVE. (IF LEGALLY POSSIBLE, WE WOULD RECOMMEND RETROACTIVITY TO FEB. 6, THE DAY OF THE INITIAL BRIEFING.) YOU MAY WISH TO CONSULT WITH DR. ZWEIFEL REGARDING HIS JUDGMENT OF THE DEGREE OF STRESS TO WHICH EMBASSY PERSONNEL ARE SUBJECTED.

3. I FEEL THAT WE ARE MAKING SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN QUIETING CONCERNS, THOUGH THIS PROCESS COULD BE REVERSED BY ADDITIONAL PRESS ARTICLES ESPECIALLY THOSE ALLEGING THAT HEALTH PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN DETECTED HERE. IT WUOULD BE HELPFUL IF ANSWERS TO THE FOUR QUESTIONS POSED ABOVE COULD BE PROVIDED IN FORM SUITABLE FOR ISSUANCE AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE FACT SHEET.
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